

## ***Is the Mystery Memo a valid document?***

**Claim:** The McCollum is a real document that helped FDR spark the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

**Background Info:** The McCollum Memo was a plan for America to provoke the Japanese into attacking America and bringing them into war. The majority of the American people, including FDR himself, did not want to enter the war, but FDR felt it necessary to fight against the fascism running across the globe, which is against American beliefs. This document, written by the naval commander, gives America eight steps to provoke Japan. We did many of these steps, which can lead us to believe that the memo did, in fact, reach Roosevelt. One major example of us following through on a suggestion was keeping our fleet of ships in Hawaii. We left our ships at Pearl Harbor, which was Japan's final straw. They reacted to this by bombing Pearl Harbor, which led us to declare war.

**Evidence:** FDR completed all 8 of the suggested steps on the memo. For example, the eighth step of the memo suggests, "Completely embargo all U.S. trade with Japan, in collaboration with a similar embargo imposed by the British empire." From our research we have found: "It is also true that our government provoked [Japan] in various ways... Progressively halting vital exports to Japan until we finally joined Britain in an all-out embargo." This proves that FDR followed the exact recommendation from the memo. Another example is the sixth step: "Keep the main strength of the U.S. fleet now in the Pacific in the vicinity of the Hawaiian Islands." On the website we found, "The bait offered Japan was... FDR's decision to permanently base the fleet in Hawaii instead of its normal berthing on the U.S. West Coast."

"In *Day of Deceit: The Truth about FDR and Pearl Harbor* by Director Buckheimer, historian Stinnett reveals that Roosevelt's plan to provoke Japan began with a memorandum from Lieutenant Commander Arthur H. McCollum, head of the Far East desk of the Office of Naval Intelligence... The memorandum advocated eight actions predicted to lead Japan into attacking the United States. McCollum wrote: "If by these means Japan could be led to commit an overt act of war, so much the better." FDR enacted all eight of McCollum's provocative step." We also found, "He discovered that FDR not only knew about the attack in advance, but that his administration did everything it could to cause a Japanese attack on America. One of the most important pieces of information that Stinnett came across was the McCollum memo, which outlined eight points that the FDR administration could do to instigate a dramatic response by the Japanese without the Congress, or the American people getting too suspicious, like cutting off economic ties with Japan, refusing its oil, establishing relations with Japan's main enemy, China, and other provocations. Stinnett's book is centered on the new historical evidence that he gathered, which is rigorously documented."

**Reasoning:** This proves that the memo is real because it cannot be coincidental that the exact 8 steps FDR took to provoke Japan are the same as the suggestions on the memo. He must have seen it. Also, it says that there is proof in navy documents.

## **Sources:**

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